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To: Nikki Schmidt  
From: Mike Miller  
Re: Update

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Little relevant legislative or regulatory action has occurred in the past two months. The budget impasse on Capitol Hill thwarted action in July and Congress was on recess through August and early September. Congress and the Administration now face the dual prospects of a government shutdown and another debt ceiling crisis in the coming weeks. As of today it is unknown whether Congress will pass legislation funding the government into FY 2014 (beginning October 1, 2013) or whether Congress will take action to raise the debt ceiling.

The budget impasse has delayed action on several pieces of legislation important to the County.

- Appropriations legislation funding programs which could help the County's efforts to develop and secure short and long term answers to ongoing water supply challenges is also caught in the budget impasse.

As the County's forms its approach to water supply and the 2014 federal budget crystalizes, The Ferguson Group (TFG) will:

- Assist County in identifying priority projects in light of available federal assistance
  - Analyze program eligibility requirements
  - Coordinate communication with federal agencies and congressional delegation
  - Design legislative and regulatory strategies to optimize eligibility and discretion
  - Help design projects agencies will fund or support with technical assistance
  - Coordinate interagency cooperation and assistance
  - Assist with grant and technical assistance application strategy and process
  - Facilitate communications on best practices between SLO and other TFG water clients
- TFG is working with the County's congressional delegation to secure an authorization for the Corps of Engineers to reimburse future Los Osos treatment plant costs. Current water resources legislation (WRDA in the Senate and WRRDA in the House) is on hold. These bills are not the only opportunity to secure reimbursement authority and we will continue to pursue this authority if Congress does not act on water resources legislation in 2013.
  - Legislation including language relevant to nuclear waste transportation and disposal and the County's interests in the Diablo Canyon facility remains at a standstill.